

REMARKS

Claims 5 – 9, 12 – 23, and 26 – 29 are pending. Claims 1 – 4, 10, 11, 24, and 25 have been cancelled. Claims 12 and 14 have been amended. Claims 27 – 29 have been added. No new matter has been introduced. Reexamination and reconsideration of the application are respectfully requested.

In the September 23, 2004 Office Action, the Examiner allowed claims 5 – 9, 16 – 23, and 26. Applicants respectfully submit that claims 5 – 9, 16 – 23, and 26 are in condition for allowance.

The Examiner objected to claims 12 – 15 as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but indicated that the claims would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicant has rewritten claims 12 and 14 in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Claims 13 and 15 depend, directly, from independent claims 12 and 14, respectively. Applicants respectfully submit that claims 12 – 15 are in condition for allowance.

Applicant has added claims 27 – 29. Claims 27 – 29 are consonant with claims 5 – 9, 16 – 23, and 26. Accordingly, applicant respectfully submits that claims 27 – 29 are in condition for allowance.

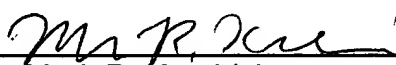
In the September 23, 2005 Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 1 – 4, 10, 11, 24, and 25 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,100,724 to Yoshimura et al. (“the Yoshimura reference”). The applicant has cancelled claims 1 – 4, 10, 11, 24, and 25.

Applicant believes that the remaining pending claims are in condition for allowance, and a favorable action is respectfully requested. If for any reason the Examiner finds the application other than in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to call the undersigned attorney at the Los Angeles telephone number (213) 488-7100 to discuss the steps necessary for placing the application in condition for allowance should the Examiner believe that such a telephone conference would advance prosecution of the application.

Respectfully submitted,

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